


October 13, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Recommendation to Retire File DOE/O47/O19, Uintah County
Seep Ridge Project

In early 1984, Uintah County acquired a sublease from Celsius Energy Company on a state section on Seep Ridge. They submitted a Mining and Reclamation Plan to the Division to mine this area. The Division reviewed the plan and found it to be "generally quite deficient". Uintah County then applied for a Declaration of Exemption in July 1984. The County apparently thought that this gave them permission mine the area and began mining the site.

The Division of State Lands and Forestry had not given final approval and when they discovered unauthorized mining on the lease (with surface disturbance of approximately four acres), they demanded that the county reclaim the site or submit a Mining and Reclamation Plan.

The county elected to reclaim the site in October 1984 to the satisfaction of Mr. John Blake of State Lands and Forestry. In the summer of 1985, two Division inspections reported that the recontouring and seeding work was very well done, but there was a large headcut forming at the outlet of the drainage. The Division recommended to the county that they stabilize this erosion by riprap or other means.

On September 17, 1987, I visited the reclaimed site and was generally impressed with the reclamation work performed. It did not appear that any additional work has been done to stabilize the headcut. It also appears that this erosion problem is not much greater than was documented in 1985, but it does mar an otherwise excellent reclamation job. State Lands does not intend to require any additional reclamation work and it is therefore recommended that this Declaration of Exemption be retired.

clj
cc: F. Jensen
1311R/17